

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors
Minutes**

December 4, 2003
2:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Vice Chair Lynnel Pollock called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the above location followed by self introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of (8) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	(Jane Dolan)	(Shirley Lewis) Les Heringer	
Colusa	(Dave Womble)	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	(Don Anderson)	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borror	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	

Resources Agency

Mel Dodgin

Cal DWR

(Dwight Russell) Stacy Cepello

Cal DFG

Diana Jacobs

State Reclamation Board

Pete Rabbon

US F&WS

(Darrin Thome)

US COE

Mark Charlton

Bureau of Reclamation

Frank Michny

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

Cal DWR

Alison Groom

1. Draft Strategic Plan Public Comment and Discussion - The consultant, Marc Smiley, gave a brief overview of the strategic planning process, where it is to date, and next steps. The draft reflects the direction, the long-term vision, core values, and programmatic and organizational goals and strategies, but does not include the implementation details at this point. Marc encouraged anyone with comments to submit them in writing to the SRCAF staff through December. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet one more time to review the comments and make final revisions to the plan which will go to the Board in January for possible adoption. John Merz and Carol Wright, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT), provided verbal and written comments regarding language in the plan that they felt needed to be clarified, specifically, the reference to “coordinating” several different activities, restoration “done well”, “effective” restoration, and “improve participation in the work of the Forum”. In response, Diana Jacobs asked for some suggestions for language that could be used in place of “coordinate” and noted that “restoration done well” applies to long-term maintenance of the sites but it might need to be stated differently. The reference to “Open Communication” was questioned as Carol did not feel that the environmental community had a real voice. She also

questioned why the plan was so geared to restoration when most of the restoration has already been done. John expressed a lack of understanding about the planning process itself. He also noted concerns that the SRCAF would continue to be regarded as part of a regulatory process; the organization needs to speak to future strengths and become proactive, not reactive. Marc offered some clarification on the process noting the strategic plan has been developed over the past six months and the Annual Plan over the last two months. The Annual Plan, developed by Marc and Burt, consists of the activities in the first column of the three-year plan that support the strategies and goals. Some of the efforts in the Annual Plan are contingent upon additional funding or support and are highlighted in the document. The draft Annual Plan was provided to the Board in their packets but has not gone out to the stakeholders as yet.

John also felt there is a need to talk about the tributaries, to bring watershed coordinators and Resource Conservation Districts to the table. There was a suggestion that a bi-annual meeting with the various watershed conservancies, as an example, could be an activity for the Forum that might establish this link with the watersheds.

Marc asked the Board for their comments. Les Heringer, alternate for Shirley Lewis, suggested adding public/private infrastructure (bridges, roads, pumping plants, flood relief structures) under Core Values. This was in reference to effective restoration being done in balance with the other community needs in the river corridor. In summary, Marc asked that the Board review the Annual Plan and provide comments by the middle of the following week; the Plan will then be distributed to the public. There will also be an opportunity for comment at the January Board meeting. Burt and Marc will work to develop a Revenue Plan following the finalization of the 3-Year Plan. An organizational plan to address issues such as committee structure and decision making will also be drafted and discussed at the February Board meeting; Marc will be available for that discussion if necessary.

2. Unscheduled Matters: John Merz reported on the Snow Goose Festival scheduled for January 23rd -25th at the Masonic Family Center in Chico. The event includes informative workshops, field trips and a Friday night reception at the Sierra Nevada Brewery. More information will be available next week on the SRPT website: www.sacriverttrust.org.

Denny Bungarz reported on an upcoming meeting with Patrick Wright that was requested by representatives from the Sacramento Valley landowners Association (SVLA) and others to discuss landowner issues. The SVLA had drafted a letter requesting the involvement of the California Bay Delta Authority in these issues. Ben Carter, Chair of the Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC) noted the SRCAF had drafted a similar letter to Patrick but had not received a response. Denny agreed to follow up on the letter at the meeting and noted that these efforts to address landowner assurances will be coordinated through the SRCAF.

Caroline Prose, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced she had brought copies of the USFWS Federal Register referencing the proposed rule changes to the Safe Harbor Agreement. The USFWS has agreed to re-open the public comment period but the closing date for comments was not known. She will forward the information to the SRCAF staff when it becomes available. Caroline is replacing John Thomson as the USFWS representative at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and LAC meetings.

Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish and Game (DFG), reported they have a new Bay-Delta Enhancement Stamp. The additional cost of \$5.00 but may make monies available to improve access issues such as boat ramp dredging.

3. Consent Calendar – A motion was made by Bill Borrer to adopt the September 18, 2003 minutes, seconded by Russell Young. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

4. Agency Reports – Greg Werner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), was introduced to update the group on the Comprehensive Plan for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Sacramento River Wildlife Area. The area is composed of 3,770 acres of wildlife habitat in 13 units between Woodson Bridge and Colusa. The plan was prepared through a partnership between the DFG and TNC and involved an extensive public outreach program that included stakeholder interviews, public input meetings and presentations to local agencies and organizations. The plan includes extensive technical review and analysis of each of the sites. The report is available on the DFG website at www.dfg.ca.gov; a hard copy is also available at the public libraries Chico, Colusa, Corning, Orland, Oroville, Princeton, Red Bluff, and Willows. The public comment period regarding the proposed Negative Declaration will extend through December 18, 2003; written comments may be sent to Greg Werner: gwerner@tnc.org.

Following the presentation, Denny informed the group that the Glenn County Board of Supervisors had drafted a letter of support for the plan. Stacy Cepello, Department of Water Resources (DWR), noted the Plan represented a great deal of thought and that the document was consistent with the goals and principles of the SRCA Forum. Les Heringer felt there were many good points in the Plan for the landowner, including signing to help with the trespass issues. In response to a question it was noted the USF&WS is drafting a plan as well, the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which should be released early next year. A motion was made by Denny Bungarz that the SRCAF draft a letter stating the DFG Management Plan is consistent with the guidelines of the SRCAF Handbook and that the letter be signed by the Manager, Burt Bundy. The motion was seconded by Les Heringer. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Frank Michny, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), reported on a recent public meeting regarding the revision of the operation of the federal and state water projects. They will be coming out with a document that will look at planning for today and also look at future conditions to try to include other project elements as best they can.

5. Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation – Donna Garcia, BOR, discussed the Feasibility Study currently underway to develop an implementable plan to enlarge Shasta Dam and Reservoir. The primary study objectives are looking at increased survival of anadromous fish populations in the upper Sacramento River and increased water supply reliability with secondary objectives of preserving/restoring ecosystem resources, reduce flood damages, and further develop hydropower capabilities. They have had several workshops in an effort to encourage stakeholder participation. The schedule is to prepare the Initial Alternatives Report next spring, the draft Feasibility EIS/EIR in 2005, with the Final Report to Congress mid-2006. They are looking for the non-federal sponsor. More project information is available at: www.usbr.gov/mp/slwr.

Diana Jacobs announced Tim Ramirez has moved from the Resources Agency to the California Bay-Delta Authority and is working directly with Patrick Wright. The group thanked Tim for the valuable contributions he has made to the SRCAF. Diana suggested the SRCAF send a group from the organization to meet the newly appointed Secretary for the Resources Agency. Burt will work with the Executive Committee to make the arrangements.

6. Board Committee Reports-

- Executive Committee – The Committee held a brief meeting to review the Board agenda. Financial reports were made available to them on the status of both the Capacity Building Grant and the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Grant for the SRCAF.
- Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC) –Chair Ben Carter reported on the November 12th meeting. One of the items discussed concerned the USFWS proposed changes to the Safe Harbor Agreement. At that meeting it was noted that the public comment period had closed but it has since been determined that the comment period will be re-opened. Ben asked if the SRCAF should comment on the proposed changes and, if so, who should draft the letter. An ad hoc committee comprised of Jeff Sutton, Carol Wright, and Renee Hawkins had previously been formed to work on suggestions for the formation of a grievance committee as discussed in the Good Neighbor Policy. It was suggested that the same committee draft a letter supporting the direction of the proposed changes and, depending on the end date of the extended comment period, bring the draft before the Board in January. The next LAC meeting will be on January 14, 2:00 p.m., at the Colusa County Farm Bureau office.

Ben commented on the Del Rio project which had come before the Reclamation Board recently. He noted the landowner adjacent to the property was unhappy with the project and extremely frustrated with the process. Ben felt the project proponents had not been forthcoming about the landowner's concerns and he (Ben) had felt a lack of support on the part of the Reclamation Board; Carol Wright indicated there were frustrations on both sides. There had been public meetings for stakeholder input and the project had gone through a review process, both at the TAC and Board. The new Project Fact Sheet has a section asking about contact with adjacent property owners but nothing to indicate what their responses had been. Pete Rabbon, Reclamation Board, informed the group they have a written form they use when making contact with landowners. He also offered to bring information on permits that are on the Reclamation Board agenda to this organization. Denny reported that John Carlon, River Partners, has agreed to meet with the landowner to try to resolve some of the issues. Denny will report back on the outcome.

- Boat Ramp Committee – Denny reported the committee has not met, he will be setting a meeting date in the near future. The Working Landscapes Subcommittee looking at Payment In-Lieu of Taxes met last week and included John Hofmann from the DFG; the committee is working on similar issues as the LAC.
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Stacy Cepello reported on the November 4th meeting. Discussion items included an update on the long-term study on the gravel bar at M&T/Llano Seco, an update on the Strategic Planning process, an update by Gary Lemon (DWR) on the Hamilton City project, a presentation on Bank Mapping by Adam Henderson (DWR), a discussion by Chuck Nelson (Chico State University) on the new Public Use/Recreation website, and the new project tracker database that will be on the SRCAF website. Four projects were reviewed/updated at the September and October TAC meetings:

-Grevies Afton Ranch- This project was reviewed at the September TAC. There has been landowner contact and they have indicated they are on board with the project. The TAC agreed the project meets the guidelines in the Handbook; they

noted it should come back through the review process when developing the restoration plan. Denny Bungarz moved that the Board find the project consistent with the principles and guidelines of the Handbook, pending confirmation with the project proponent, Cathy Morris/TNC, and the landowner, the Clarks. Motion seconded by Ben Carter. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

-Tisdale Boat Launching Facility- This project was also reviewed by the TAC in September and found to be consistent with the guidelines of the Handbook. Bill Borrer moved that the Board find the project consistent with the principles and guidelines of the Handbook. Motion seconded by Les Heringer. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

-Shahi Property- An update on this project was presented to the TAC in October. This project was previously reviewed by the TAC and Board in March, 2002. The site could be considered in the analysis in the Riparian Sanctuary Study across the river. Further review during the management planning phase was suggested.

-La Barranca Unit of the Sacramento River NWR – An update on this project was presented to the TAC in October for informational purposes. This project is currently in the environmental compliance phase. An adjoining landowner has been involved in the planning process.

7. Manager's Report – Due to time constraints, a verbal report was not given. Burt noted a handout of the report was available in a more detailed format.
8. Next Meeting – The January meeting was set for January 15th, the February meeting was set for February 19th, both will be held at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows. It was suggested that the depredation issue originally planned for today be placed on a future agenda.